



# MEMA REPORTS

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MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

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## **BOSTON MARATHON: A SUCCESS DESPITE RECORD HEAT**

For the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year, MEMA hosted the Multi-agency Coordination Center (MACC) for the Boston Marathon at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at MEMA HQ in Framingham. On Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, almost 100 liaisons from the local communities, as well as state, federal, private and volunteer Public Safety, Health, Communication and Transportation agencies, organizations and departments staffed the SEOC from 7:00am until 6:00pm on Patriots' Day for the 116<sup>th</sup> running of the race. Over 22,500 of the 27,000 registered runners braved the record-setting heat, as over 95% of the starters completed the grueling 26.2 miles from Hopkinton to Boston. The MACC monitored 'The Big Picture', rapidly and effectively responding to situations as they arose, providing critical resource and information analysis to support the Incident Command and Unified Command. Again, the Incident Command System (ICS) was utilized by all elements involved. WebEOC as well a new technology NICS (Next Generation Incident Command System – see next story) piloted by MIT/Lincoln Labs were used for real-time messaging, sharing weather data, maps, medical information and logs, both inside and outside the MACC. Key liaisons in the MACC represented Police, Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management from the eight race communities (Hopkinton, Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Newton, Brookline and Boston), as well as other organizations under the leadership of MEMA and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, including the Boston Athletic Association, Federal Bureau of Investigation, MA State Police, MA State Police Fusion Center, MA Department of Public Health, MA National Guard, MassDOT, MA Department of Fire Services, MBTA, MIT/Lincoln Labs, American Red Cross, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), Fallon Ambulance, Cataldo Ambulance and AMR Ambulance.

The extreme heat and scorching sun made this year's event almost as great a challenge for the Marathon organizers, the communities and those at the MACC who supported the runners with excellent preparation, communication and cooperation. The beefed up medical stations, misting tents, open hydrants, additional water and ice, additional back-up sweep buses and ambulances, emergency room preparations, plus the fact that runners followed pre-race warnings to listen to their bodies, hydrating and back off on their early race pace all contributed to making this year's Boston Marathon the success it ultimately was. More information regarding this great international event is available at [www.baa.org](http://www.baa.org).

## **NICS**

MEMA, in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security and MIT/Lincoln Labs, piloted the Next Generation Incident Command System (NICS) at the MACC during this year's Boston Marathon. All local Emergency Operations Centers and Mobile Command Posts had NICS running on at least one monitor or screen throughout the event. NICS was able to display real-time information to Incident Commanders, including the locations of lead and trail vehicles, locations of runners through

the tracking chips issued by the Boston Athletic Association, locations of mobile command posts and medical tents, road closures and reopenings, medical tent capacities, significant events and incidents along the route. Throughout the pilot, his tool was invaluable to the success of the race and has the potential to be a great tool during unplanned emergency events. Additional information on the NICS can be found at [http://www.ll.mit.edu/publications/technotes/TechNote\\_NICS.pdf](http://www.ll.mit.edu/publications/technotes/TechNote_NICS.pdf).



### **MEOC & MCST NOW ACTIVE**

MEMA has taken delivery of 2 new field response support trailers. The new MEMA Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) and Mobile Communications Support Trailer (MCST) have both been fully outfitted and are ready for deployment. The MEOC trailer was recently used to provide support space for Brookline Police during the Marathon and both trailers will be utilized during the upcoming Pan Mass Challenge bike event. These new Operations and Communications trailers can be requested by any community or agency in the Commonwealth through either the MEMA Regional offices or MEMA Headquarters for use in emergencies, pre-planned events, and disasters.

The MEOC trailer provides a variety of on scene capabilities, including a command and control environment or a public registration area if needed. Internet and voice connectivity through both cellular and satellite services are available, along with a variety of both mobile and portable radios for immediate use in the field. The MEOC trailer's work area has a conference table to accommodate up to ten people, and an additional two workstations for up to another five people. There is also an on board color plotter for use in printing large scale field maps, and multi-function printers/fax/copier/scanners on board to create a fully functional office environment in the field. Situational awareness is achieved thorough both satellite and off-air television along with a camera that is mounted on a 42' retractable mast. The images on the camera can also be streamed live to a website address if needed for remote viewing. The MEOC has an ADA compliant handicap accessible ramp. The MCST trailer is a specialized interoperable communications asset that can provide communications support to incident commanders dealing with disasters, incidents, or pre-planned events, and help provide communications in areas with limited coverage by providing both on scene communications support and serve as a 're-trans' trailer for extending radio coverage. The trailer is specially equipped to provide interoperable communications in fringed or non-existent coverage areas of a disaster or event. Both trailers also serve as a Wi-Fi "hot spot" allowing internet connectivity and also can be used as a hub for cellular and satellite telephone service. In addition, both trailers have a unique 10' total height to allow for bridge/tunnel travel statewide.





### **WILD FIRE THREAT CONTINUES**

The combination of a dry winter extended unseasonably high temperatures, low humidity, strong breezes and localized areas of extensive vegetative debris from last year's tornadoes and storms have created a recipe for the increased risk of Brush and Forest Fires throughout the region. Wildfires often begin unnoticed, but spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. There are three different classes of wild fires. A 'surface fire' is the most common type, burning along the forest floor, moving slowly and killing or damaging trees. A 'ground fire' is usually started by lightning and burns on or below the forest floor. 'Crown fires' spread rapidly by the wind and move quickly by jumping along the treetops. Because 80% of forest fires are started by negligent human behavior, such as smoking in forested areas or improperly extinguishing campfires most are preventable. For additional information, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **STATEWIDE HURRICANE CONFERENCE**

Details have been finalized for the Statewide Hurricane Conference to be held at Devens Common Center, Devens, MA on May 9, 2012 from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. This conference will provide participants an educational opportunity to learn about various hurricane preparedness topics as we prepare to enter the 2012 Hurricane Season. Guest speakers are expected from the following agencies: the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, the National Weather Service, FEMA, New England Cable News, and the Army Corps of Engineers. This conference will allow participants to share ideas and gain knowledge through a series of break-out workshops, presentations, and panel discussions.

### **MA INTEROPERABILITY CONFERENCE**

The State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) is hosting the *2012 MA Interoperability Conference* at the DCU Center in Worcester on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. It has been designed for Public Safety Officials such as Police, Fire and Emergency Management Agency Command Staff; Departmental Radio Technicians; Emergency responders who may be called upon to function as Incident Commanders on All-Hazards Incident Management Teams; All-Hazards Communications Unit Leaders (COMLs) and Communications Unit Technicians (COMTs);

Emergency Operations Center leaders; Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council and Interoperability Sub-Committee members; and SIEC Members. The highlights will include: The latest improvements to local, regional and state public safety communications interoperability across MA; Live demonstrations of new communications interoperability tools; How to access and utilize interoperability resources including equipment and COMLs; Progress in implementing the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) in MA; Hot topic presentations such as Narrowbanding & "D" Block; One-on-one Technical Assistance from interoperability experts; Panel Discussions about interoperable communications; Meet members of the SIEC and learn how they can help solve interoperability challenges; Meet with interoperability partners from local, regional, state and federal organizations; and Help shape the 2012 update of the Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP). Register at [Jeffery.brownell@state.ma.us](mailto:Jeffery.brownell@state.ma.us).

### **MEMA TAKES EMAC LEAD**

On March 25, 2012 at 1400 hours, MEMA Operations Manager Allen Phillips began a one-year term as the Chair of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Executive Task Force, and MEMA assumed the responsibility of serving as the EMAC National Coordinating State (NCS) for one year, replacing the State of Arizona. The National Coordinating State is the initial point of contact for EMAC operational activities. The NCS monitors potential and actual emergency events nationwide and must be prepared to support states with EMAC needs on short notice by swiftly coordinating with Authorized Representatives and Designated Contacts in impacted states. For example, during the response to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011, 25 states sent 1,126 people on 68 missions to 10 states through EMAC. The NCS recruits the other operational coordination components for deployment and interfaces with the EMAC Program Director during an event. The NCS serves the operations coordination function in the overall EMAC governance structure, as it oversees all EMAC response and recovery operations and ensures that operational procedures are followed, that coordinating teams are adequately staffed, and that timely deployment status reports are issued. The NCS also coordinates with NEMA's Executive Task Force and NEMA staff to resolve policy and procedural issues during the activation and implementation of EMAC functions. As the Chair of the Executive Task Force, Allen Phillips will coordinate MEMA's NCS activities. He is the lead for extensive EMAC Training for MEMA Staff, many of whom will travel to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD for specific ongoing EMAC training. More information about taking the EMAC lead can be found at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

### **SUCCESSFUL FEDERALLY GRADED SEABROOK NUCLEAR EXERCISE**

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, MEMA staff took part in the very success biennial federally graded exercise of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station Emergency Plan. MEMA and NH Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, partnered with MA Department of Public Health and the utility and local officials from all six MA Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) communities (Amesbury, Merrimack, Salisbury, Newbury, Newburyport and West Newbury. Entities who were present at the State Emergency Operations Center and who successfully responded to the 'Earthquake Scenario' included MA State Police, MA National Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, MassDOT, MA Department of Mental Health, American Red Cross, Office of the Secretary of State, Mass211 and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). The MEMA Nuclear Preparedness and MEMA Region I staffs all did their usual outstanding job, drawing high praise from the evaluators.

### **REGION I MANAGER POSITION FINALIZED**

MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz recently announced that Sarah White has been formally promoted to the position of MEMA Region I Manager. For the past months, Sarah has been successfully serving as the Acting Manager for the Region.

## **STATEWIDE WORKING GROUP PROJECTS**

### **Mass Care Sheltering**

As part of the statewide Mass Care and Shelter Initiative, an online Shelter Survey was developed to gather information from the public about how they would seek mass care and shelter during an emergency. The survey, which went live on March 12<sup>th</sup> and was recently concluded, had over 3,600 participants. As this information is analyzed, it is expected to provide valuable data, as this Workgroup moves forward to develop a statewide Mass Care and Shelter Plan to enhance coordination of mass care and shelter services across the Commonwealth.

### **Evacuation**

At its latest meeting, members of the Evacuation Working Group received an update from the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers concerning updates of SLOSH (Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes) and Hurricane Studies. They also addressed the first of three Phases, which will identify best practices for local evacuation plans and unique local, regional and statewide challenges; establish standards for local evacuation plans; resolve local and regional conflicts in existing evacuation plans; link local and regional plans together; maximize utility and capacity of evacuation routes; and develop common web-based templates and tools for developing local plans and best routes.

### **Children and Disasters**

The Children and Disasters Workgroup has recently met to present the results of the Gap Identification phase of this initiative. The group has worked for the past year to identify and evaluate gaps in local and state plans, policies, and procedures where the needs of children might not be met during major disasters and emergencies. The group will use the gaps that have been identified to assess the needs of children across all four phases of the emergency management cycle and to recommend enhancements to current plans and procedures. More than 20 participants were invited from various organizations and agencies, including the Administration of Children and Families, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, Department of Education, Department of Youth Services, Boston Children's Hospital, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Red Cross, Save the Children, MA State Police, and MEMA.

### **Animal Sheltering**

The Statewide Animal Sheltering Working Group met on March 27<sup>th</sup>, and discussions included reviewing the updated tasking lists that have been formulated to assist in the monitoring and completion of ongoing action items, memorandums of understanding and developing concept of operations moving forward. Major tasks currently being undertaken include: Development of animal shelter planning educational component to add as topic at upcoming Region Emergency Management Director's meetings; develop animal shelter template guide and training program; review existing documentation and programs currently in use to determine best practices.

### **IMAT**

The Incident Management Assistance Teams Working Group is working with Tetra Tech, hired by MEMA to develop the Statewide All-Hazards IMAT Strategy. Tetra Tech has initiated 'Phase 1' of the projects which entails research on how States have and/or are addressing the development of IMATs.

## **TRAINING & EXERCISES**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the MEMA Training Department, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, conducted a pilot workshop specifically for MEMA staff to help evaluate programs and products which ultimately will be made available to local Emergency Management officials. The group provided feedback, evaluating the workshop, capturing the most valuable topics, tools, features, products and services which NWS provides. The purpose of these workshops, going forward, is to better prepare emergency responders, enhance planning capabilities and provide the opportunity to gain knowledge of hazards, forecast discussions, long term forecasts, new technologies, etc. before a disaster occurs.

## **MARCH TRAINING UPDATE**

During this past month, an additional 206 individuals attended 18 different classes receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas *ICS-300*, *ICS-400*, *Basic Public Information Officer*, *Resource Management System (RMS) Basic*, *RMS Administrator*, and *WEB EOC Refresher for the Boston Marathon*. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

## **NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM GOES LIVE**

After much anticipation, the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) went live in April as a first-of-its-kind national alert system in the U.S. that allows the public to receive major emergency alert notifications on their mobile phones without having to sign up or pay for them. CMAS is the interface to the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) service that wireless phone carriers will roll out in the U.S. this year. The system was developed through a partnership between the FEMA, the FCC and wireless phone carriers to increase public safety nationwide. Through the CMAS system, authorized public safety authorities will be able to use FEMA's Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN) to send geographically specific emergency alert notifications similar to text messages to the public. Alerts can be a maximum of 90 characters, and in most cases, will only contain basic information such as the type of emergency, when the alert will expire and a recommended course of action. Cell phone carriers will sell mobile phones with the capability to receive CMAS notifications. For more details, go to <http://www.govtech.com/public-safety/National-Emergency-Alert-System-Goes-Live.html>.

## **MASSACHUSETTS NLE2012 INVOLVEMENT**

Of the four major exercises designed to examine the Nation's ability to coordinate and implement prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and capabilities pertaining to a significant cyber event or series of events, the final or multiple-day National Level Exercise 2012 capstone event scheduled for early summer will be the portion in which MEMA will be fully engaged. This exercise will examine the coordination and communication processes between public and private stakeholders in response to such a significant cyber event. MEMA, along with numerous private and public entities, has taken part in a series of planning conferences and meetings concerning Exercise Scope of Play and Exercise Development. In coordination with this national exercise, the MA Cyber Disruption Annex has progressed to the final review stage.

## **CSU HURRICANE FORECAST**

The latest 'Extended Range Forecast of Atlantic Seasonal Hurricane Activity and Landfall Strike Probability' by Doctors Klotzbach and Gray of Colorado State University anticipates that the 2012 hurricane season will have reduced activity compared with the 1981-2010 climatology. The tropical Atlantic has anomalously cooled over the past several months, and it appears that the chances of an El Niño event this summer and fall are relatively high. CSU estimates that 2012 will have about 4 hurricanes (median is 6.5), 10 named storms (median is 12.0), and 2 major (Category 3-4-5) hurricanes (median is 2.0). They anticipate a below-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the U.S. coastline and in the Caribbean. However, coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them, and they need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted. For the entire report, go to <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/>.

## **IBHS STATE BUILDING CODE ASSESSMENT**

The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) has released a new report which provides an analysis of residential building codes in the 18 hurricane-prone coastal states along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Coast. Massachusetts rated fourth with a score of 87 out of 100. Building codes are intended to increase the safety and integrity of structures, thereby reducing deaths, injuries



and property damage from hurricanes and a wide range of other hazards. "[Rating the States: An Assessment of Residential Building Codes and Enforcement Systems for Life Safety and Property Protection in Hurricane Prone Regions](#)" is the first of its kind, state-by-state assessment of individual state performance in developing and promulgating a residential building code system, which uses modern building codes, coupled with strong enforcement related activities to enhance the protection of homes and families. More details: <http://www.disastersafety.org/research/article?articleId=6923>.

### **ONE-STOP FOR GRANTS**

All MEMA grant information is centralized in the 'Grants' section under "Key Resources" on the MEMA website at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). As they become available, the information covers a litany of topics including Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), Citizen Corps Program (CCP), Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) and Hazard Mitigation Grants Program (HMGP).

### **OCTOBER NOR'EASTER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

To date, all of the eligible applicants from the six counties which qualified for the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program due the October 29-30 Nor'easter, and subsequent Federal Disaster Declaration, are moving forward with the aid process. Reimbursement payments are being disseminated, with the PA Program having obligated over \$6.9M to date. Additional information about the reimbursement process is available at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=16152>.

### **TROPICAL STORM IRENE ASSISTANCE**

690 individuals have been approved for Tropical Storm Irene aid with over \$5.5M distributed through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and 80 loans totaling \$3.4M through the Small Business Administration (SBA). FEMA's eGrant system has obligated \$18.9M to communities through its Public Assistance (PA) Program. Additional recovery details are available on the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=15596>.

### **TORNADO RECOVERY CONTINUES**

1,073 individuals have been approved and received \$4.7M in individual assistance through FEMA. The SBA has distributed 283 loans totaling \$16.7M. To date, FEMA's eGrant system has obligated 64% of the Project Worksheets, totaling over \$21.6M to communities for PA. FEMA recovery information is available at <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=14733>.

### **CRISIS COUNSELING CONTINUES FOR TORNADO SURVIVORS**

Free crisis counseling continues to be available for residents of Hampden and Worcester counties who may be stressed, anxious or depressed due to the June 1st tornadoes. Those who want to take advantage of this confidential service may call (855) 915-8047, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The service is provided by the MA Department of Mental Health (MDMH) through their MassSupport Program and will be available through July 31, 2012. This service is funded by FEMA through a grant to MDMH.

### **MUTUAL AID NUMBERS RISING**

The number of communities and governmental entities opting into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement continues to grow. To date, 217 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 149 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). MEMA continues to encourage all cities and towns to take advantage of this opportunity. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or [allen.phillips@state.ma.us](mailto:allen.phillips@state.ma.us).

## **PARTICIPATE IN MAYDAY 2012**

Libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and preservation organizations across the country have set aside May 1, 2012, to participate in [MayDay](#), a national effort to prepare for disasters. Promoted by [Heritage Preservation](#) and other members of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, MayDay encourages cultural organizations to take one simple step to protect the art, artifacts, records, books, and historic sites they hold in trust. To help cultural institutions make the most out of MayDay, Heritage Preservation will provide a wealth of activities and information. For examples on what others have done in the past, information on their prize drawing, or additional resources and promotional material, please visit Heritage Preservation's [Web site](#).

## **FEMA CORPS**

On March 13, 2012, the White House [announced an innovative partnership](#) between the Department of Homeland Security's FEMA and the [Corporation for National and Community Service \(CNCS\)](#) to establish a FEMA-devoted unit of 1,600 service corps members within [AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps \(NCCC\)](#). It will be a full-time residential service program for individuals ages 18-24, solely devoted to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. This partnership builds on the historic collaboration between the two agencies and will enhance the federal government's disaster capabilities, increase the reliability and diversity of the disaster workforce, promote an ethic of service, expand education and economic opportunity for young people, and achieve significant cost savings for the American taxpayer. When the program is at full operational capability, in an average disaster year, there is an anticipated savings of approximately \$60 million in a year. The FEMA Corps members will serve for a 10 month term with an option to extend for a second year. The program will prepare thousands of young people for careers in emergency management and related fields. During their service, they will gain significant training and experience in disaster services and will provide important support to disaster survivors. The first members will begin serving in August 2012 and the program will reach full capacity within 18 months. For additional details regarding FEMA Corps, go to <http://www.fema.gov/about/employees/femacorps.shtm>.

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